

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for requesting a consistent state in a computing environment using a first thread, the computing environment including multiple threads, the multiple threads including the first thread, comprising:

saving a snapshot of an indication of a state of the first thread and thereafter setting the state of the first thread to a safe state, wherein the indication of the state of which the snapshot is saved is an indication of whether or not the first thread was consistent;

acquiring a consistent state lock using the first thread;

identifying substantially all threads that are inconsistent, the inconsistent threads being included in the multiple threads;

altering the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent to a consistent state;

notifying the first thread when the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent have been altered to be consistent;

restoring the indication of the state of the first thread from the snapshot; and

releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

2. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

performing a garbage collection after releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

3. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 2 further comprising:

notifying the substantially all threads that have been altered to be consistent that the garbage collection has been performed.

4 (currently amended) ~~A~~ A computing apparatus having a computing environment executing thereon, and having a program executing thereon for requesting a consistent state in a the computing environment using a first thread, the computing environment including multiple threads, the multiple threads including the first thread, the apparatus program executing thereon comprising:

program means for saving a snapshot of an indication of a state of the first thread and thereafter setting the state of the first thread to a safe state, wherein the indication of the state of which the snapshot is saved is an indication of whether or not the first thread was consistent;

[[a]] program means for acquiring a consistent state lock using the first thread;

[[a]] program means for identifying substantially all threads that are inconsistent, the inconsistent threads being included in the multiple threads;

[[a]] program means for altering the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent to a consistent state;

[[a]] program means for notifying the first thread when the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent have been altered to be consistent;

[[a]] program means for restoring the indication of the state of the first thread from the snapshot; and

[[a]] program means for releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A computing apparatus as recited in claim 4, the program executing thereon further comprising:

a program means for performing a garbage collection after releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A computing apparatus as recited in claim 5, the program executing thereon further comprising:

[[a]] program means for notifying the substantially all threads that have been altered to be consistent that the garbage collection has been performed.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium product having embodied thereon a computer program for requesting a consistent state in a computing environment using a first thread, the computing environment including multiple threads, the multiple threads including the first thread, the computer program product comprising ~~computer-readable media including:~~

computer program code for saving a snapshot of an indication of a state of the first thread and thereafter setting the state of the first thread to a safe state, wherein the indication of the state of which the snapshot is saved is an indication of whether or not the first thread was consistent;

computer program code for acquiring a consistent state lock using the first thread;

computer program code for identifying substantially all threads that are inconsistent, the inconsistent threads being included in the multiple threads;

computer program code for altering the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent to a consistent state;

computer program code for notifying the first thread when the state of the substantially all threads that are inconsistent have been altered to be consistent;

~~a means~~ computer program code for restoring the indication of the state of the first thread from the snapshot; and

computer program code for releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

8. (currently amended) A computer readable medium product as recited in claim 7, the computer program embodied thereon further comprising:

computer program code for performing a garbage collection after releasing the consistent state lock using the first thread.

9. (currently amended) A computer readable medium product as recited in claim 8, the computer program embodied thereon further comprising:

computer program code for notifying the substantially all threads that have been altered to be consistent that the garbage collection has been performed.